



II

三田紀男







YEAH.

YOUR
MOM'S
OPENING
A TEA
HOUSE?

NOT A
CAFE?

SHE WANTS
TO PUMP
ALL HER
PART-TIME
JOBS AND
MANAGE HER
OWN TEA
HOUSE.



IT
SOUNDS
BEHIND
THE
TIMES.

I
DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT.



SHE SAID
SHE WANTS IT
TO BE AN
OLD-FASHIONED
KIND OF TEA
HOUSE, LIKE
THE KIND IN
NOOKS OF A
SHOPPING
DISTRICT.



IT'S
RECKLESS TO
GO INTO AN
OUTDATED
BUSINESS
LIKE THAT.
IT'S A ROAD
TO RUIN.

I KNOW.
TEA HOUSES
ARE ARCHAIC
REMANANTS
OF THE
SHOWA
PERIOD.



NOT TO
MENTION
YOU CAN
BUY A
COFFEE
AT A CON-
VENIENCE
STORE FOR
100 YEN.

NOWADAYS
COFFEE
CHAINS ARE
EXTREMELY
POPULAR;
THEY'VE
TOTALLY
OVERTAKEN
TEA HOUSES.



I
AGREE.

YOU CAN'T
WIN WITH A
PRIVATE
SHOP IN A
COMPETITIVE
BATTLEFIELD
LIKE THAT.



SAKURA-
CHAN, YOU
ABSOLUTELY
HAVE TO
TALK HER
OUT OF IT.



YESIDES, MY
MOTHER
HAS NEVER
MANAGED A
BUSINESS.

MY
RELATIVES
ARE ALL
EMPLOY-
EES, TOO.
THEY
WOULDN'T
DREAM OF
STARTING
A BUSI-
NESS.



YEAH,
I WILL.



RENTAL
COSTS,
OPENING
COSTS, ETC.
WILL ADD UP
TO A LOT;
IT'LL BE A
DISASTER IF
THE BUSINESS
FAILS.

SHE PROBABLY
THINKS SHE CAN
RUN A TEA
HOUSE ALL BY
HERSELF, BUT
IT CAN'T BE
THAT EASY.



DO YOUR
BEST,
SAKURA-
CHAN.

I'M AGAINST
HER TAKING
SUCH A HIGH
RISK. I'LL
DEFINITELY
TALK HER
OUT OF IT.





ZERO?

HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?



I DON'T NEED A PENNY TO START IT.

STARTUP COSTS WILL BE PRETTY MUCH ZERO.



I'M TAKING OVER A SHOP THAT'S BEEN IN BUSINESS.

I'LL BE TAKING OVER THE RENTED SPACE, CLIENTELE, AND ESTABLISHED NAME.



A PRE-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS?



I'LL BE STARTING A PRE-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS.

IN OTHER WORDS...



THE
LEASEHOLD
COMES FULLY
FURNISHED WITH
EQUIPMENT, SO
YOU CAN QUICKLY
OPEN SHOP
AFTER SOME
MINOR
REFURBISHING.

THAT'S
WHAT
REALTORS
CALL IT:
A PRE-
ESTABLISHED
BUSINESS.



I'VE
REACHED
MY LIMIT
WORKING
PART-TIME.
I CAN'T
PHYSICALLY
KEEP UP
WITH IT
ANYMORE.

IT'S
AN OUT-
STANDING
ESTABLISH-
MENT
THAT'S
BEEN
AROUND
FOR FORTY
YEARS.

IN MY
CASE, IT'S
GOING TO
BE A TEA
HOUSE.

I'LL
RUN MY
HEALTH
IF I
KEEP
GOING.

BUT
WHY THIS
PLACE,
MOM?



THEN I WAS HIRED
TO THOROUGHLY
CLEAN THIS TEA
HOUSE'S KITCHEN
ONCE EVERY TWO
WEEKS. THAT'S
HOW I GOT TO
KNOW THE
OWNERS.

I WAS LOST
FOR A
WHILE, NOT
KNOWING
WHAT TO DO.



A black and white illustration of a man and a woman in a coffee shop. The man, on the left, is wearing a vest over a shirt and is pouring coffee from a pot. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark vest over a light shirt and is looking at him. They are standing behind a counter with various coffee-making equipment. In the background, there are shelves filled with coffee-related items like cups and books.

BUT THEY'RE
GETTING ON
IN AGE AND
WANTING TO
RETIRE. THEY
DON'T HAVE AN
HEIR TO KEEP
THE BUSINESS
GOING.

THE PLACE
IS RUN BY
A HUSBAND
AND WIFE,
AND THE
SHOP IS
KNOWN
FOR ITS
DELICIOUS
COFFEE.



A black and white illustration of a man and a woman in a coffee shop. The man, on the left, is wearing glasses and a light-colored shirt. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark vest over a light shirt and is looking at him. They are standing behind a counter with various coffee-making equipment. In the background, there are shelves filled with coffee-related items like cups and books.

THEY
SUGGESTED
THAT I
BECOME
THEIR
SHOP'S
SUCCESSOR.

AS THE SHOP
CLEANER, I
EVENTUALLY
BECAME CLOSE
TO THEM, AND
WE STARTED
TALKING ABOUT
OUR PERSONAL
LIVES.



A black and white illustration of a man pouring coffee from a pot into a cup. He is wearing a dark vest over a light shirt. In the background, there are shelves filled with coffee-related items like cups and books.

I'VE BEEN
FREQUENTING
THE SHOP FOR
TWO MONTHS
NOW, LEARNING
HOW TO BREW
COFFEE.



A black and white illustration of a window with a grid pattern. The window is set into a wall. In the foreground, there is a small round table and two chairs. The floor is tiled.

I TURNED
THEM DOWN
AT FIRST,
SAY-
ING THAT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE.



A black and white illustration of a man and a woman in a coffee shop. The man, on the left, is wearing a striped shirt and is drinking from a cup. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark vest over a light shirt and is looking at him. They are standing behind a counter with various coffee-making equipment. In the background, there are shelves filled with coffee-related items like cups and books.

I FINALLY GOT
HIS APPROVAL. HE
SAID I HAD
ACHIEVED A LEVEL
FIT TO SERVE
CUSTOMERS
THAT GAVE ME
CONFIDENCE TO
TAKE OVER HIS
BUSINESS.

BUT AS THE
PROPRIETOR
EXPLAINED
TO ME THE
KNOW-HOWS
OF TEA
HOUSE
MANAGEMENT,
I STARTED TO
THINK IT
WAS WORTH
A TRY.





A PRE-ESTABLISHED
BUSINESS?



SHE'S
TAKING
OVER THE
WHOLE
BUSINESS,
AND PAYING
THEM 10%
OF HER
PROFITS.

YES.



I DUNNO.
I JUST CAN'T
PICTURE A
SUCCESSFUL
TEA HOUSE.

IN THAT
CASE, SHE
WON'T INCUR
MUCH DAMAGE
IF THE
BUSINESS
FAILS.



IF YOU
FEEL IT'S A
BUST, YOU
DEFINITELY
HAVE TO
TALK YOUR
MOM OUT
OF IT.

ANYWAY, I'M
GOING TO
ASK THE
PROPRIETOR
LOTS OF
QUESTIONS.







Y... YES.









LET'S SAY
YOU DO RISE
TO THE TOP
FOR A WHILE.
MANAGEMENT
WILL BECOME
MORE AND
MORE
DIFFICULT AS
YOU CONTINUE
THE CONSUMER
WARFARE.

BUT IF
THAT'S YOUR
MANAGERIAL
APPROACH,
YOU'RE
VOLUNTARILY
DIVING INTO
THE FRAY OF
FERCE
POSS-EAT-POSS
COMPETITION.



WHY?



A MIDDLE-AGED
PERSON LIKE
YOUR MOM
CANNOT RUN
A FOOD
BUSINESS
THAT MAINLY
INVOLVES
COOKING.



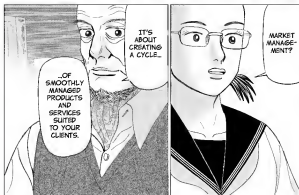
BECAUSE
SHE
PHYSICALLY
CAN'T
SUSTAIN IT.



THAT'S WHY
BENTO SHOPS
AND FOOD
INDUSTRY
SHOPS WITH
MANY ITEMS
SHOULD BE
AVOIDED AT
ALL COSTS.

THE PROCESS OF
COOKING ENTAILS
QUITE A LOT OF
ENERGY. GRABBING
HEAVY COOKWARE,
STANDING IN FRONT
OF THE STOVE IN A
HOT KITCHEN. THESE
THINGS DEplete
STAMINA. YOU
CAN'T SUSTAIN IT
FOR LONG.









HOW
DO YOU
FIGURE
THAT?



AS LONG AS
WE ALWAYS
HAVE THREE
REGULAR
CUSTOMERS,
WE CAN
SAY THIS
BUSINESS
IS A
SUCCESS.



NOW,
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
OUR COST
TO MAKE
IT IS?

OUR SHOP
OFFERS
BLENDED
COFFEE AT
600 YEN
PER CUP.



IS IT
AROUND
100 YEN?

THE COST
PRICE OF
A 600 YEN
CUP OF
COFFEE...




IF THREE CUSTOMERS EACH ORDER ONE CUP PER HOUR, THAT'S 1,800 YEN.



A CUP OF COFFEE WHICH COSTS US 10 YEN IS SOLD AT 600 YEN.

¥1800

WE'RE OPEN SIX DAYS A WEEK, SO 120,000 YEN PER WEEK, OR ABOUT 500,000 YEN PER MONTH. THIS GOES ON CONTINUOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



THAT COMES OUT TO 8,000 YEN IN TEN HOURS OF OPERATION FROM 10:00 AM TO 8:00 PM, SO ONE DAY'S YIELD WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 20,000 YEN.



EVERY
LAST BEAN
PURCHASED
WILL BE USED
TO EARN A
PROFIT.
YOU'LL HAVE
NO RISK OF
LEFTOVER
WASTE.

COFFEE BEANS
CAN BE STORED
FOR SEVERAL
YEARS. YOU
CAN PURCHASE
FRESH BEANS IN
BULK AT A
CHEAP PRICE.
SINCE YOU
BREW SMALL
QUANTITIES AT
A TIME.



WE DON'T
HAVE TO PAY RENT
FOR OUR SHOP
BECAUSE WE OWN
THE PROPERTY.
SO WITH NO RENTAL
COST, YOU WON'T
NEED TO HIRE
ANYBODY; YOUR
EXPENSES WILL
BE MINIMAL.

NOT ONLY IS
THIS HIGHLY
PROFITABLE,
THERE'S VERY
LITTLE PHYSICAL
LABOR
INVOLVED.
A SENIOR
CITIZEN
COULD
DO IT.



YES...
I'M VERY
GRATEFUL
FOR THIS
DEAL.

SO IF SHE
WERE TO PAY
US 10% OF
MONTHLY
EARNINGS,
ABOUT 50,000
YEN EVERY
MONTH, DON'T
YOU THINK
THAT'S OUTS
A GOOD DEAL
FOR YOUR
MOM?







FOR PRIVATE
SHOPS, IDEAS
OF GROWTH
AND EXPANSION
ARE THE
DEVIL'S
WHISPERS.





THE
DEVIL'S
WHISPERS?



"SELL
MORE,
EXPAND
MORE."

THE DEVIL
WHISPERS
INTO SHOP-
KEEPERS' EARS:



EVENTUALLY,
THE
BUSINESS
WILL FAIL.

PEOPLE GET
SWAYED BY THESE
SWEET WORDS AND
TRY TO SELL MORE
PRODUCTS AND
EXPAND THEIR
BUSINESS. AND
THAT'S THE
SUREFIRE WAY THE
DEVIL DRAGS THEM
INTO HELL.



FAIL?
I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT...





A LITTLE
BEHIND
THE
TIMES,
DON'T
YOU
THINK?

BUT
IT'S A
TEA
SHOP.



YOU RARELY
COME UPON
THE GOOD
FORTUNE OF
TAKING OVER
A BUSINESS
THAT COMES
WITH EQUIP-
MENT AND
ESTABLISHED
CLIENTELE.

OF
COURSE
IT IS.



BUT IT'S IN
THE BACK
CORNER OF
AN OLD-
FASHIONED
SHOPPING
DISTRICT.
ALL THE
CONDITIONS
ARE WRONG.

IS
THAT
SO?



OUR
POPULATION
IS RAPIDLY
AGING.
YOU COULD
EVEN SAY
THAT IT'S
TRENDY.

NOT A
CON-
CERN.



HEH.
I DON'T
KNOW.

WHY
SHOPPING
DISTRICTS
HAVE
TURNED
INTO
SHUTTER
DISTRICTS?



ANYONE, THE
SHOPPING
DISTRICTS
ACROSS
JAPAN'S
COUNTRYSIDE
HAVE ALL
FAILED AND
TURNED INTO
"SHUTTER
DISTRICTS."

HAVE
YOU EVER
WONDERED
WHY?



BECAUSE
THEY AIMED
FOR
GROWTH
AND
EXPANSION?



IT WAS
BECAUSE...

ALL THE
PRIVATE
SHOP
OWNERS
AIMED FOR
GROWTH AND
EXPANSION.



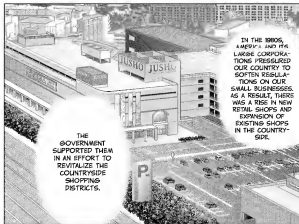
SHOP
OWNERS ARE
BUSINESS-
PEOPLE.
OF COURSE
THEY'D AIM FOR
GROWTH AND
EXPANSION.
WOULDN'T
THEY?

WAIT A
MINUTE,
GRANDPA!



IT'S A
MISTAKE FOR
PRIVATE
SHOPS TO
AIM FOR
GROWTH AND
EXPANSION.

NO. PRIVATE
SHOPS AND
CORPORA-
TIONS ARE
ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT
ANIMALS.



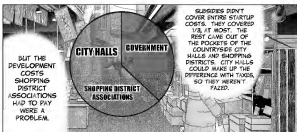
THE
GOVERNMENT
SUPPORTED THEM
IN AN EFFORT TO
REVITALIZE THE
COUNTRYSIDE
SHOPPING
DISTRICTS.

IN THE 1980S,
AMERICA AND ITS
LARGE CORPORA-
TIONS PRESSURED
OUR COUNTRY TO
SOFTEN REGULA-
TIONS ON OUR
SMALL BUSINESSES.
AS A RESULT, THERE
WAS A RISE IN NEW
RETAIL SHOPS AND
EXPANSION OF
EXISTING SHOPS
IN THE COUNTRY-
SIDE.



GOING WITH
THE FLOW, ARCADE
DISTRICTS POPPED
UP LEFT AND RIGHT
THROUGHOUT THE
NATION, PROMPTED
BY SHOPPING
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATIONS.

IT BECAME AN
IMPERATIVE TO
COMPETE AGAINST THE
RAPIDLY EMERGING
MAJOR RETAIL STORES,
SO THE GOVERNMENT
DISTRIBUTED
ENORMOUS FUNDS TO
RENOVATE SHOPPING
DISTRICTS TO BECOME
BIGGER, PRETTIER,
AND MORE
CONVENIENT.





BECAUSE THEY HAD GOTTEN THEMSELVES INTO DOUBLE DEBT, THEY EXPANDED THEIR SELLING SPACES AND STOCKED UP ON FAR MORE PRODUCTS, HOPING FOR INCREASED SALES.

SHOP OWNERS HAD TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE ARCADE DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION, WHILE ALSO MANAGING THEIR OWN SHOPS, AND ALL EXPENSES, OF COURSE, WERE AUGMENTED BY LOANS.



WORRIED ABOUT THE DECLINING BUSINESSES, NOBODY WAS WILLING TO TAKE OVER, AND BUSINESSES THAT REACHED THE END OF THEIR ROPES CLOSED, ONE AFTER ANOTHER. IN THE END, SHUTTERED-UP SHOPPING DISTRICTS BECAME A COMMON SIGHT THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

BUT NO SALES PLAN THAT IGNORES THE SCOPE OF THE MARKET COULD EVER SUCCEED. LOAN REPAYMENT ADDED FURTHER PRESSURE TO MANAGING A BUSINESS.



THESE SHOPPING DISTRICTS WERE SUPPOSED TO REALIZE THE ROSY DREAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS REVITALIZATION PROGRAM, HOWEVER...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAJOR FAULT WAS AIMING AT GROWTH AND EXPANSION BEYOND ONE'S MEANS.







HOWEVER, SINCE THE RADICAL DECLINE IN PEOPLE WANTING TO TAKE OVER BUSINESSES, THAT RATE HAS GONE DOWN TO 10%.

UNTIL THE 1960S, 50% OF THE WORK FORCE CONSISTED OF PRIVATE AND FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS OWNERS.



THIS WAS A FAVORABLE CYCLE FOR SOCIETY, CHILDREN OF SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES STARTING UP THEIR OWN BUSINESSES.

MOST PEOPLE WHO START UP BUSINESSES FROM SCRATCH COME FROM BACKGROUNDS WITH FAMILY-RUN BUSINESSES. THIS IS BECAUSE THEY WERE RAISED WITH THAT KIND OF BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE.

Apron logo, etc.: "Issei Mercantile"



WHICH MEANS, IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE, JAPAN WILL BECOME A NATION DEPENDENT SOLELY ON CORPORATIONS. IT WILL BECOME A NATION OF NOTHING: BUT SALARY EARNERS.

BUT NOW THAT CIRCLE HAS BEEN BROKEN. CHILDREN DIDN'T TAKE OVER THEIR FAMILY BUSINESSES, BUT BECAME "SALARYMEN" INSTEAD, AND THEIR CHILDREN IN TURN ALSO BECAME SALARIED WAGE EARNERS.







YEAH.



YOU
AGREED
TO YOUR
MOM'S
TEA SHOP
BUSINESS?



SAKURA-
CHAN
AGREED TO
LET HER
MOM GO
INTO
BUSINESS.



HEY,
MITSUKI-
CHAN!



I THINK
IT'S A
GOOD
IDEA.





THE
SMART-
PHONE
CAN REVIVE
PRIVATE
BUSINESSES!

THE
SMART-
PHONE IS A
WEAPON OF
BUSINESS
SUCCESS!



THE
SMART-
PHONE?
REVIVING
PRIVATE
BUSINESS-
ES?



THAT'S
RIGHT.



IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOU'RE SAYING
SAKURA-
CHAN'S MOM'S
SHOP WILL
SUCCEED
BECAUSE OF
THE SMART-
PHONE?









RIGHT?





...THEY'D
WALK INTO A
CONVENIENT
FRANCHISE JUST
BECAUSE THEY
HAD NO MEANS
OF EASILY
OBTAINING
INFORMATION.

BACK IN THE
DAYS BEFORE
SMARTPHONES,
WHEN PEOPLE
WOULD
PONDER
WHERE THEY
WANTED TO
GO GRAB A
BITE TO EAT...



EVERYBODY
KNEW WHAT
TO EXPECT,
SO THEY
WOULD
BECOME
REGULARS.

FRANCHISE
CHAINS HAVE
INEXPENSIVE,
TASTY
FOOD AND
STANDARDIZED
SERVICE
PROTOCOLS,
SO YOU
COULDN'T GO
WRONG.



THAT'S HOW
JAPAN BECAME
FILLED WITH
THE SAME
KINDS OF
FRANCHISE
CHAINS.

THE RESTAURANT
FRANCHISE
INDUSTRY
TARGETED MAJOR
BUSINESS
DISTRICTS.
THEY EXPANDED
BY FOCUSING IN
THOSE REGIONS,
AND THEY GREW
RAPIDLY.



LOOK AT THE CITY MAP AND SEARCH USING THEIR SMARTPHONE.

WHEN EATING OUT, THE FIRST THING PEOPLE DID WAS TO...



BUT WITH THE ADVENT OF SMARTPHONES, PEOPLE'S PURCHASING HABITS MADE A SUDDEN CHANGE.



FURTHERMORE, BY SHOWING A SMARTPHONE COUPON, A CUSTOMER COULD RECEIVE DISCOUNTS.

NOWADAYS WE CAN FIND A PLACE WE LIKE WITHIN A RADIUS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS, THANKS TO SMARTPHONE SEARCHES.



RIGHT!

WHICH MEANS COMPETITION BETWEEN CHAINS WOULD NO LONGER BE PREPOMINANT.



SO UNIFORMLY
STANDARDIZED
CHAINS HAVE COME
TO BE VIEWED AS
LACKLUSTER
AND DEVOID OF
PERSONALITY.
THIS MAKES THEM
UNATTRACTIVE
ESTABLISHMENTS.

BECAUSE OF
THE SMARTPHONE
AGE, PEOPLE CAN
PUBLICLY SHARE
INFORMATION
ABOUT
ESTABLISHMENTS,
ABOUT THEIR
RATINGS, AND
EVEN DETAILS
THAT NEVER
WOULD'VE BEEN
KNOWN IN THE
PAST



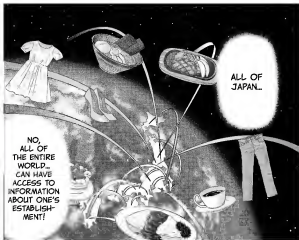
THEY
CAN EVEN
MORE
SATISFACTION
BY TRANS-
MITTING
THEIR OWN
INFORMATION
USING SNS
(SIMPLE
NOTIFICATION
SERVICE).

MEANWHILE,
PURCHASERS
HAVE STARTED
TO SEARCH
FOR PLACES
THAT SUIT
THEM BEST.
THEIR VALUE
PERSPECTIVE
HAS
SHIFTED.



EVEN IF
NOBODY
KNEW
ABOUT THEIR
EXISTENCE
BEFORE.

THIS BEING
THE CASE,
PRIVATELY
MANAGED
RESTAURANTS
CAN NOW EXPECT
A LARGE INFUX
OF CUSTOMERS
FROM WITHIN
THE BUSINESS
DISTRICT
BASE.





IT
WAS ONLY
A LITTLE
WHILE AGO
THAT PRIVATE
BUSINESSES
WERE IN
A HARSH
ENVIRONMENT.



SO
IF YOU USE
I.T. TO YOUR
ADVANTAGE
TO ATTRACT
CUSTOMERS,
IT'S POSSIBLE TO
STABILIZE YOUR
CLIENTELE, EVEN
FOR A PRIVATE
BUSINESS.



IT WAS AN ICE
AGE FOR PRIVATE
ENTERPRISES.
MANY OF THEM
WERE DRIVEN TO
BANKRUPTCY, ONE
AFTER ANOTHER,
SIMPLY BECAUSE
THEY COULDN'T
COMPETE WITH THE
PRICES OF MAJOR
PROVIDERS!

PRIVATE
BUSINESSES
IN JAPAN
WERE ON
THE BRINK OF
EXTINCTION!



THEY'RE
FINALLY
GETTING
A LITTLE
OF THAT
SPRING
SUNSHINE!

BUT THE SUN
HAS STARTED
TO SHINE,
THANKS TO THE
POWER OF
SMARTPHONES
AND IT.



IT.
POWER
SURE
HAS A
LOT OF
IMPACT.

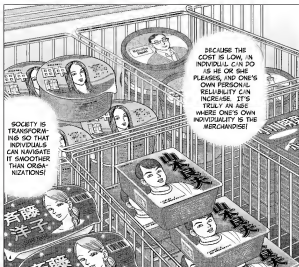
I
THINK
SO, TOO.



THIS IS
A GOOD
CHANCE
FOR YOUR
MOM TO
TURN
THINGS
AROUND!

THIS
OPPORTUNITY
MUSTN'T
BE LOST.





SOCIETY IS TRANSFORMING SO THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN NAVIGATE IT SMOOTHER THAN ORGA- NIZATIONS!

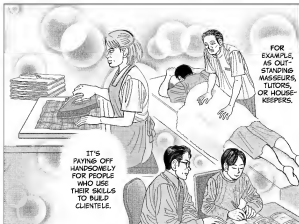
BECAUSE THE COST IS LOW, AN INDIVIDUAL CAN DO AS HE OR SHE PLEASES, AND ONE'S OWN PERSONAL RELIABILITY CAN INCREASE. IT'S TRULY AN AGE WHERE ONE'S OWN INDIVIDUALITY IS THE MERCHANDISE!



THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE TAKING ACTION TODAY, RIDING THE WAVE OF THE TIMES.

INDIVIDUALS ABOVE ORGANIZA- TIONS, HUH?

THEN LARGE- SCALE ORGANIZA- TIONS NO LONGER HAVE AS MUCH MERIT.



FOR
EXAMPLE,
AS OUT-
STANDING
MASSEURS,
TUTORS,
OR HOUSE-
KEEPERS.

IT'S
PAYING OFF
HANDSOMELY
FOR PEOPLE
WHO USE
THEIR SKILLS
TO BUILD
CLIENTELE.



IF YOU
KNOW HOW TO
MANAGE YOUR
MARKET, EVEN
INDIVIDUALS
HAVE NOTHING
TO FEAR.

IT'S TRULY
BECOME A
WORLD IN
WHICH ONE
CAN SET UP
THEIR OWN
ECONOMIC
ENVIRONMENT.



THANK
YOU.

I'M SO
RELIEVED TO
HEAR ALL THIS,
SAKURA-CHAN.
DO YOUR BEST
WITH YOUR
MOM. YOU
HAVE MY
MORAL
SUPPORT.





SURE.
WHAT?



UM... MAY I
ASK YOU A
QUESTION?



...TO TAKE
OVER YOUR
SHOP, WHEN
SHE'S A
COMPLETE
STRANGER
TO YOU?



WHY DID
YOU
CHOOSE
SAKURA-
CHAN'S
MOM...



I JUST
WANT THE
PLACE TO
GO ON.

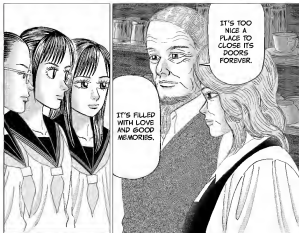


...I HAVE
NO PAR-
TICULAR
REASON.

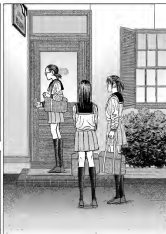
WELL,
AS TO
WHY...

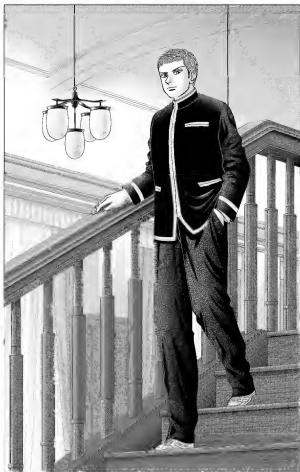


LET'S
SEE...



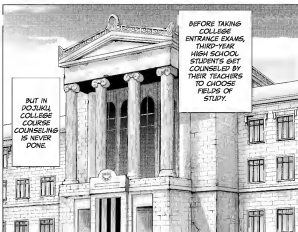








MID
OCTOBER...



BUT IN
DOJUKU,
COLLEGE
COUNSELING
IS NEVER
DONE.

BEFORE TAKING
COLLEGE
ENTRANCE EXAMS,
THIRD-YEAR
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS GET
COUNSELED BY
THEIR TEACHERS
TO CHOOSE
FIELDS OF
STUDY.



CURRICULUMS ARE NOT DIVIDED INTO HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES, EITHER. FOR ALL SIX YEARS FROM JUNIOR HIGH TO HIGH SCHOOL, STUDENTS ATTEND THE SAME CLASSROOMS UNTIL GRADUATION.

STUDENTS TAKE INITIATIVE TO RESEARCH AND CHOOSE COLLEGES THEY DESIRE TO ATTEND. HENCE, NO ENTRANCE EXAM PLANNING IS DONE BY THE SCHOOL.



IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S AN EXTREMELY IMPASSIVE SCHOOL.

ALL STUDENTS TAKE DISPARATE ROADS, AND THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS TAKE NO PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS.



THE SCHOOL CAN DO THIS BECAUSE IT RECEIVES NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING WHATSOEVER.

ITS CURRICULUMS ARE NOT BOUND BY THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS. STUDIES ARE CUSTOM DESIGNED WITH RESPECT TO EACH STUDENT'S PERSONALITY, GIVING PRIORITY TO THEIR ACADEMIC INTERESTS.



THAT'S HOW DOJUKU IS.

YOU COULD SAY THERE IS FREEDOM AT THIS SCHOOL.











YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO EAT LOCAL SAPPORO CUISINE.

I SEE.



I FLEW IN FOR A RESEARCHERS' CONVENTION. I GOT FORCEFULLY DRAGGED HERE BY NAKAJIMA-SAN TO TRY AND SAVE YOU AND RQJUKU FROM DANGER.

HE'S KIDDING.



WHAT A BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENT TO RECEIVE THAT PRIZE AT 23 YEARS OF AGE.

OH YEAH, SHITAKOJI-SAN. CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING THE HERMANN WEYL PRIZE.*

*Award in recognition of young researchers in physics



STUDYING HARD IN AMERICA PAID OFF.

WELL, THANKS.



I WAS IN MY THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL WHEN KAWISHIRO WAS IN HIS FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.

YES.

SHITAKOJI, YOU WERE CAPTAIN OF THE INVESTMENT CLUB WHEN KAWISHIRO WAS A NEW STUDENT, ISN'T THAT SO?





ALUMNI
AREN'T
SUPPOSED
TO
MIDDLE
WITH
THE
AFFAIRS
OF
THE
CURRENT
MEMBERS.

ALSO,
CURRENT
MEMBERS
AREN'T
OBLIGATED
TO
REPORT
THE
ACTIVITIES
OF
THE
CLUB
TO
ALUMNI.



WHAT'S
THIS
I
HEAR
ABOUT
A
BEST-OF-THREE
MATCH
TO
DETERMINE
THE
CONTINUATION
OR
ABOLITION
OF
THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB?!

HOW
COULD
YOU,
AS
THE
CAPTAIN,
ALLOW
SUCH
A
RIDICULOUS
COMPETITION?



BUT
IT
DEPENDS
ON
THE
TIME
AND
SITUATION.

I'VE
BEEN
FAITHFULLY
KEEPING
OUR
CODE.



WE
CAN'T
LET
YOU
GUYS
RECKLESSLY
DESTROY
130
YEARS
OF
TRADITION
AND
ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS
OF
THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB.



THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB
IS
GOING
TO
VANISH
IF
THAT
FIRST-YEAR
TWERP
LOSES
TO
THE
FUJITA
CLAN'S
HEIR,
ISN'T
THAT
SO?

HOW
DO
YOU
EXPECT
THE
ALUMNI
TO
KEEP
THEIR
MOUTHS
SHUT
ABOUT
THAT?









ZAIZEN'S
THE GUY
THAT
PROPOSED
TO THE
FUJITA
FAMILY THAT
HE SHOULD
LIQUIDATE
ALL THE
TREASURES
IN THE SAFE.







HE JUMPS IN
WITH BOTH FEET
WITH A FRESH
ATTITUDE; THE
NEW REPLACES
THE OLD, AND
THAT'S HOW THE
ORGANIZATION IS
REFRESHED.

EVERY
YEAR, AN
EAGER NEW
GUY GETS
ADDED TO
THE TEAM.



THAT'S
HOW THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB, RUN BY
KIDS, HAS
BEEN ABLE TO
PRODUCE
SUCH
OUTSTANDING
RESULTS.

THROUGH
CAMARADERIE,
THEY ENDEAVOR
TOGETHER
TOWARD
ACCOMPLISHING
GOALS.



WHEN
PEOPLE LIKE
THAT INVEST FOR
MANY YEARS, ALL
THEY HAVE TO
RELY ON IS THEIR
LONG YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE AND
SELF-CONFIDENCE.
THEY WILL
ASSUREDLY
GO BUST.

IF A SINGLE
INDIVIDUAL
BELIEVES HE
CAN PLAY
ALL THOSE
ROLES, HE'S
OVERESTIMATING
HIS ABILITIES.



I WANT TO
HAND THE
INVESTMENT
CLUB OVER
TO THE NEXT
GENERATION
WITH PEACE
OF MIND.

I'M
CERTAIN THAT
WILL HAPPEN.
THAT'S WHY WE
HAVE TO WIN
THIS MATCH, SO
THAT NOBODY
FROM THE FUJITA
FAMILY WILL
MEETLE WITH THE
CLUB EVER
AGAIN.





*Massachusetts Institute of Technology











I'VE BEEN
RACKING UP
SOLID WINS
FOR THREE
DAYS STRAIGHT
NOW, I'M
YIELDING A
PROFIT.



I HOPE
IT'LL
KEEP ON
RISING.

THE MARKET'S
BEEN ON THE
RISE, WHICH IS
GOOD FOR ME
SINCE I'M A
BULL.



IT HAS
TO KEEP
RYING FOR
ANOTHER
TEN DAYS,
OR ELSE
I'M IN
TROUBLE.

NO.



IF THERE'S
A DIP IN THE
NEXT TEN DAYS,
SHINJI-SAN
THE BEAR WILL
DEFINITELY RAKE
IN A HUGE
PROFIT!



I WON'T
HAVE A
CHANCE OF
WINNING!

THAT'LL
CREATE AN
OVERWHELMING
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US,
SINCE I'M A
BULL!



NOT
ONLY
THAT...

IF I LOSE THE
FIRST MATCH,
THE NEXT TWO
MATCHES WILL
BE EXTREMELY
TOUGH



...AND THEY'LL
FORCE ME
OUT OF THE
COMPETITION.

...MY SENIORS
WILL MAKE
BE BBS FOR
SHINJI-SAN'S
MERCY...



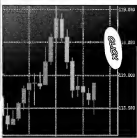
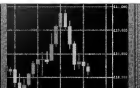
IT'D
BE A
TERRIBLE
EMBAR-
RASS-
MENT.

EVEN THOUGH
I STARTED IT,
I'LL GET
DISCARDED.

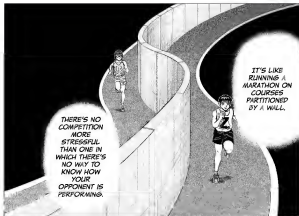


I'M
GOING
TO WIN,
NO
MATTER
WHAT.

FORGET IT!
I'LL NEVER
LET THAT
HAPPEN!







THERE'S NO COMPETITION MORE STRESSFUL THAN ONE IN WHICH THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW HOW YOUR OPPONENT IS PERFORMING.

IT'S LIKE RUNNING A MARATHON ON COURSES PARTITIONED BY A WALL.



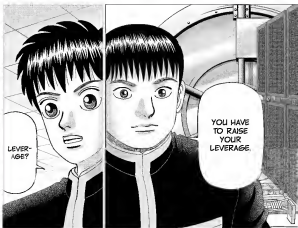
BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO KEEP WINNING UNDER OVERWHELMING PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE. THERE'S A DANGER OF MAKING GRAVE MISTAKES.

ALL I CAN DO IS ENDURE THIS PRESSURE FOR NINE MORE DAYS.



A SUREFIRE WAY TO WIN WITHOUT ALL THIS PRESSURE.

I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO OVERCOME THIS SITUATION IN ONE SHOT?



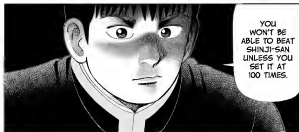


YOU
COULD
GO TO 50
TIMES...
NO, EVEN
FURTHER.



YOU'RE
PROBABLY
GOOD
ENOUGH
NOW
TO GO
HIGHER.

25
TIMES,
HUH.



YOU
WON'T BE
ABLE TO BEAT
SHINJI-SAN
UNLESS YOU
SET IT AT
100 TIMES.



I DOUBT
YOU'LL
HAVE A
CHANCE
UNLESS
YOU JACK
IT UP TO
THAT.



100
TIMES!



TOMI-
NABA-
SAN'S
ADVICE IS
CORRECT.



I CAN'T BEAT
SHINJI-SAN
UNLESS I
INCREASE THE
LEVERAGE TO
100 TIMES.

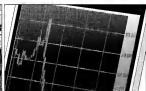


IF I CAN
MAINTAIN A
LEAD BY
YIELDING A
BIG PROFIT
IN THE
CURRENT
STATE
OF THE
MARKET...

WHEREAS IF
I COMPETE
AT 100 TIMES
LEVERAGE, THE
CHANCES OF
MY WINNING
WILL PROPOR-
TIONATELY
INCREASE



I'LL REACH
THE GOAL
WAY AHEAD
OF HIM,
EVEN IF I
CAN'T SEE
WHERE
HE IS!









WHAT
HAS
COME
OVER
ME?



I MUST BE
EXTREMELY
FATIGUED.



HESTITATION
AND
DOUBT...

BUT THERE'S
A MOMENT'S
HESTITATION
RIGHT BEFORE
CLICKING THE
EXECUTE
BUTTON.



THE ONLY
THING THAT'S
CHANGED IS
THAT THE
LEVERAGE HAS
BEEN RAISED
TO 100 TIMES.



BUT WHY?
I'VE BEEN
CLICKING THESE
BUTTONS AT
A GOOD PACE
ALL THIS
TIME.



WHEN I
INVESTED 10
MILLION YEN
IN THE FIRST
MATCH, THERE
WAS NO
LEVERAGE
SET.



COULD
IT BE?

!



MAYBE THE
TRAUMA
OF THAT
EVENT HAS
GOTTEN
INGRAINED
IN ME?



THEN I
INCREASED
IT TO 400
TIMES, AND
INCURRED
THE
NEGATIVE
8 MILLION
IMMEDIATELY.

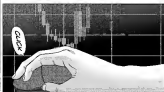


THIS IS
NO TIME
TO BE
SHAKING
IN MY
BOOTS.

NO, IT
CAN'T BE.
I'M
OVER-
THINKING
IT.

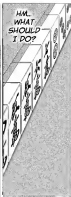
**CUTTING
LOSSES
MAXIMIZING
PROFITS
NOT A
SECOND'S
HESITATION**

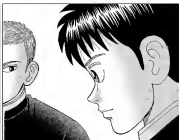
BY SHINJI



















YOU BLEW
10 MILLION
YEN IN THE
PRELIMINARY
PRACTICE,
RIGHT OFF
THE BAT.

I
WONDER
IF THAT
TRAUMA-
TIZED
YOU



AFTER I
MADE A HUGE
BLUNDER, I
COULDN'T GET
THE FEAR OUT
OF MY HEAD.
IT GOT SO BAD,
I COULDN'T
MOVE MY HAND.

I'VE
EXPERIENCED
THE SAME
THING.

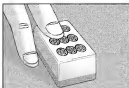


HOW DID
YOU GET
OVER YOUR
TRAUMA,
TOMINASA-
SAN?

YOU
HAVE TO
CONQUER
THAT
FEAR AND
FORGE
AHEAD.

IT
HAPPENS
A LOT
IN FX.







FOR
THE SAKE
OF MY
FRIENDS
THAT
SUPPORT
ME...



...AND
KEEP ON
PLAYING!



...AND FOR
MY OWN SAKE,
BECAUSE I
CAN'T AFFORD
TO LOSE...



...UNTIL I
ERASE THAT
MISERABLE
MEMORY
FROM MY
BRAIN!

...I'LL
KEEP
PLAYING
MAH-
JONG...







JEFFREY
SCOTT IS A
CHAMPION
OF THE
ROBBINS
CUP, AN
INVESTMENT
COMPETITION.



THE ROBBINS
CUP IS A WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
TOURNAMENT
FOR HOW MUCH
PROFIT CAN
BE MADE IN A
YEAR FROM A
STARTING FUND.

IT'S A
NOTEWORTHY
EVENT FOR
INVESTORS,
COMPARABLE
TO THE WORLD
SERIES IN
BASEBALL AND
THE SUPERBOWL
IN FOOTBALL.
THE CHAMPIONS
ARE HIGHLY
RESPECTED.

Championship
ng®

ROBBINS
CUP
1998



THOUGH
HE YIELDED A
FAVORABLE
500% PROFIT,
THERE
WAS ONE
OPPONENT
HE COULDN'T
BEAT.

SHINJI HAD
BEEN TOUTED AS
AN INVESTMENT
PRODIGY SINCE
CHILDHOOD.
HE CONFIDENTLY
ENTERED THE
CHALLENGE OF
THE BOBBING CUP
WHEN HE WAS IN
JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL.



JEFFREY HAD
RAKED IN AN
STELLAR
1,876% PROFIT
IN HIS
INVESTMENTS.

THAT WAS
JEFFREY
SCOTT, 21
YEARS OLD,
A GODLIKE
COLLEGE
STUDENT.



HE BOLDLY
DECIDED TO
APPROACH
HIM, AND
THUS BEGAN
THEIR INTER-
ACTIONS.

SHINJI WAS
ASTONISHED
BY JEFFREY'S
TALENT, AND
CAME TO HAVE
STRONG
ADMIRATION
FOR HIM.



HE POLISHED HIS
SKILLS AND TIMING
BY REPEATEDLY
PRACTICING THE
CUTTING OF LOSSES
AND MAXIMIZING
PROFITS, AS WELL
AS MAKING
SPLIT-SECOND
DECISIONS.
JEFFREY COULDED
WIN THE WHOLE TIME.

SHINJI
LEARNED HIS
STOIC AND
ATHLETIC
STYLE OF
INVESTING
FROM
JEFFREY.



NO,
NOT AT
ALL...

SO
JAPANESE
KIDS
ARE INTO
INVESTING,
TOO?



HOW
COME
THERE
ARE SO
FEW OF
THEM IN
JAPAN?



I'D
BETTER
NOT TELL
HIM
ABOUT
DOJINKU.

THERE ARE
PROBABLY
ONLY A
HANDFUL IN
THE WHOLE
COUNTRY.



IN JAPAN,
INVESTORS
ARE VIEWED
AS SHADY.



THAT'S WHY
OUTSTANDING
INVESTORS
KEEP A LOW
PROFILE.

INDIVIDUAL
INVESTORS THAT
BUY AND SELL
STOCKS ON A
DAILY BASIS ARE
LABELED AS
GREEDY MONEY-
WORSHIPERS.
THEY'RE VIEWED
COULDELY BY THE
WORLD.



LIKE BUFFETT?

SUPER-
STARS?



THAT'S
WHY THERE
ARE NO
INVESTOR
SUPERSTARS
IN JAPAN.



THERE
WERE SOME
BEFORE
THE WAR,
BUT NOT
A SINGLE
ONE AFTER-
WARD.



WHEN A STAR
EMERGES IN
PROFESSIONAL
BASEBALL, KIDS
ADMIRE THEM
AND WANT
TO EMULATE
THEM.

THERE HAS
TO BE AN
ADMIRABLE
EXAMPLE TO
INSPIRE A
SMALL BUD TO
SPROUT AND
BEAR FRUIT.

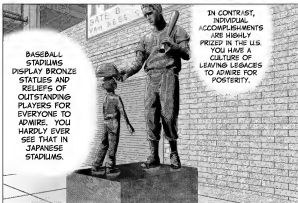


NOBODY
THINKS OF
INVESTING
AS COOL OR
AWESOME,
SO KIDS
PAY NO
ATTENTION
TO IT.

BUT NO
ADMIRABLE
HERO OF
INVESTING
EVER
EMERGES
IN JAPAN.



THAT'S NUTS.



A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and tie, stands with his arms raised in a crowd. He appears to be giving a speech or presentation. The crowd consists of several people, some of whom are looking towards him. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor or large indoor gathering.

IN THE U.S.,
SUCCESSFUL
VENTURE
CAPITALISTS
ARE HIGHLY
SOUGHT AFTER,
AND CONTRIBUTE
MUCH TO
SOCIETY.
THEY'RE HIGHLY
RESPECTED.

EVEN IN
FINANCE, THIS
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND JAPAN
IS CLEARLY
EVIDENT.

A man in a dark suit is being pelted with numerous small, dark objects, likely stones or bricks, by a crowd of people. The man is shown from the back, running or being pushed through the crowd. The scene is chaotic, with many hands reaching out to throw the objects. The background shows more people and some buildings in the distance.

IF THEY'RE
SUCCESSFUL,
THEY'RE PAID
STINGILY, AND
IF THEY PROFIT
UNETHICALLY,
THEY'RE BASHED
AS BLACK MARKET
HOODLUMS.

BUT
JAPANESE
VENTURE
CAPITALISTS
ARE SEEN AS
WILD-EYED
ATTENTION
SEEKERS.

A young man with short dark hair and glasses is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark t-shirt with the letters 'DI' and 'OU' visible, and a light-colored zip-up jacket. He is gesturing with his right hand, which is raised with fingers spread. He has a serious expression on his face.

OF COURSE
THERE ARE
HEROES IN
MOVIES AND
TV DRAMAS
IN JAPAN.

A man with long hair and a beard is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. He is holding a small, rectangular object, possibly a phone or a small tablet, in his right hand. He has a serious expression on his face.

WHAT A
SCARY
COUNTRY.

THEY'RE
BASHED
IF THEY
SUCCEED?



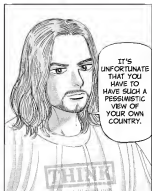
JAPANESE
CULTURE
VALUES THE
GOVERNMENT
AGENT WHO
RESCUES A
COMMON
CITIZEN WHEN
THEY'RE IN
TROUBLE.

BUT
JAPANESE
HEROES
ARE ALWAYS
GOVERNMENTAL
FIGURES. MITO
KOMON, DOKA
ECHIZEN, COPS IN
POLICE DRAMAS,
THEY'RE ALL
AGENTS OF THE
GOVERNMENT.



UNLIKE JAPAN,
INDIVIDUAL
SUCCESS IS
VIEWED AS
AWESOME.
EVERYBODY
ADMIRE THOSE
PEOPLE AND
WANTS TO BE
LIKE THEM.

ON THE OTHER
HAND, THE
EUROPEAN OR
AMERICAN HERO
IS BASICALLY A
COMMON CITIZEN,
INCLUDING AN
INVESTOR OR A
BUSINESS-
PERSON.



IT'S
UNFORTUNATE
THAT YOU
HAVE TO
HAVE SUCH A
PESSIMISTIC
VIEW OF
YOUR OWN
COUNTRY.



DUE TO
THIS...

A
SUCCESS-
FUL
INDIVIDUAL
CAN NEVER
RISE IN
JAPAN.



JAPAN ALSO
HAS THE
ADVANTAGES OF
BEING ETHICAL,
STUDIOUS, AND
POSSESSING
A UNIQUE
IMAGINATION.

OF
COURSE
JAPAN HAS
MANY OUT-
STANDING
PEOPLE.



WELL, THE
INTERNET
CONNECTS
THE
WORLD OF
TODAY.

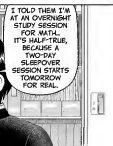
YOU GET
CRUSHED
IF YOU GET
NOTICED
DOMESTICALLY,
BUT FOREIGN
INFLUENCES
CAN CHANGE
JAPAN.





















SAME
TIME, THE
FUJITA
MANSION



THE
OUTCOME
WILL BE
DETERMINED
IN FOUR
HOURS.



BUT I
THINK MY
BROTHER
WILL
WIN FOR
SURE...



COME
IN.





THERE'S
NO WAY
ZAIZEN-KUN
COULD WIN.



BUT THEN
AGAIN, MAYBE
THAT BOY
COULD...



SHINJI-SAMA
OR
ZAIZEN-KUN?

WAIT A
SECOND..
WHO AM I
ROOTING
FOR?

















THEY SPIN
THEIR WHEELS
BUYING AND
SELLING
WITH HIGH
FREQUENCY, BUT
THEY NEVER
PRODUCE
FAVORABLE
RESULTS.

THE AMATEUR
INVESTOR GETS
GREEDY FOR
MORE WHEN
THEY PROFIT,
AND PANICS
WHEN THEY
LOSE. "I
MUST GET IT
BACK!"



WHEN A
TRANSACTION IS
COMPLETED, THEY
STEP AWAY FROM
THE MARKET,
CALM DOWN,
AND WAIT FOR
THE NEXT
OPPORTUNITY
TO ARISE.

WINNERS OF
THE MARKET
STAY ON AN
EVEN KEEL.



BUT IT'S
ALSO
VITAL TO
REST.

PEOPLE
USUALLY
ONLY THINK
ABOUT
BUYING AND
SELLING.



THE FINAL
LAP'S
STADIUM.
INDEED.

TOWNAGA-
SAN, IF WE
LOOK AT THE
CURRENT
SITUATION IN
TERMS OF A
MARATHON, THE
FINAL LAP'S
STADIUM IS NOW
IN VIEW, AND
WE'RE PAST THE
30 KM HAIL.

(Marathon length: 26.2 miles / 42.19 km)



SO I
SHOULDN'T
FORCE MY
HAND, EITHER.
I'LL MAINTAIN
MY SLIGHT
LEAD, BE
PATIENT, AND
HEAD TOWARDS
THE STADIUM.

SHINJI-SAN CAN'T
MANEUVER MUCH
EITHER BECAUSE
OF THE SIDEWAYS
MARKET. ALL
HE CAN DO IS
MAINTAIN HIS
CURRENT PACE.



...I'LL ENTER
THE FINAL LAP
AND SPRINT
FOR THE
FINISH!

WHEN THERE
ARE JUST A
FEW MINUTES
LEFT BEFORE
THE 5:00 A.M.
DEADLINE...



I'LL JUST
HAVE TO
RUN AT
FULL
SPEED!

ONCE
WE'RE IN
THE STADIUM,
THE WINNER
WILL BE
DETERMINED
ON THE
TRACK.





YOU
COULD
WIN
THIS!

ALL RIGHT!
SO THAT'S
THE PLAN!



WILL I
REALLY
WIN LIKE
THAT,
THOUGH?

WINNER OR
LOSER WILL
BE DETER-
MINED ON
THE TRACK!
THE BATTLE
COULD END
IN A PHOTO
FINISH!

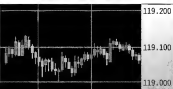


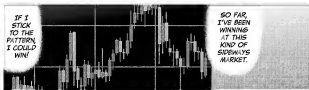
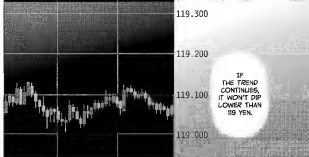
BUT I
FEEL THAT
TOMINAGA-
SAN'S
STRATEGY
IS ALSO
CORRECT...
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

SHOULDN'T
I GET
FURTHER
AHEAD?











THERE WON'T
BE A BIG
FLUCTUATION.
MAYBE I
SHOULD...





SAPPORO,
3:29 A.M.



HE,
ZEN-
SAN.



WE'RE
STEPPING
OUTSIDE
FOR A
BREATH
OF FRESH
AIR.

HOW
IS IT?



SHINYA-KUN,
REN-KUN,



HE
THINKS
ZAIZEN
MIGHT
BE IN
THE
LEAD.

ACCORDING
TO TOWINAGA-
SAN'S
PROGNOSIS,
THE BATTLE
IS GOING
TO BE A
PIERCE DEAD
HEAT.



HOW
IS HE
DOING?

AND...
ZAIZEN-
KUN.



ZAIZEN-
KUN IS
LEADING?



3:43
A.M.



AND
THERE ARE
OVER TWO
HOURS TO GO.
THERE'S STILL
TIME FOR THE
MARKET TO
FLUCTUATE
BEFORE
CLOSING TIME.

IT'S
ONLY A
GUESS.
THERE'S
NO SOLID
EVIDENCE.



TWO MORE
HOURS... THIS
IS WHERE THE
REAL BATTLE
BEGINS.

VERY
TRUE.



WELL,
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE,
DUT...

MAYBE THE
TWO OF THEM
WILL EARN THE
SAME AMOUNT,
AND THE
MATCH WILL
BE A TIE.



SAPPORO
4:07 A.M.



ZAISEN,
YOU
SHOULD
STICK TO
THE 700
INCREASE,
AT 170
MILLION
YEN.

YOU
COULD
WIN
WITH
THAT.



THE
MARKET'S
BARELY
MOVING.
CHANCES ARE
HIGH THAT
IT'LL CLOSE
AT 119 YEN.





DASH?



ZAIZEN,
YOU'RE
NOT
THINKING
OF..



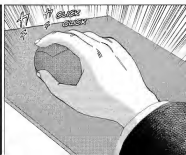
NOW IS
THE TIME TO
DASH FULL
BORE!



WINNING
BY A NOSE
ISN'T MY
STYLE!

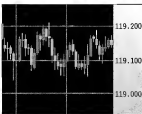
I REFUSE
TO WIN ON
THE TRACK
WITH A
MERE
PHOTO
FINISH!





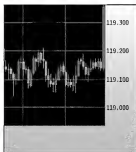










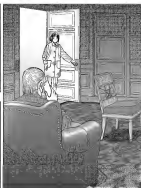














SAPPORO,
6:06 A.M.



OKAY.



ALL RIGHT,
SHINJI-SAN,
LET'S
COMPARE
OUR SUMS
OVER THE
SMART-
PHONE.



HERE
GOES.



FAIR VALUE ASSESSMENT BALANCE	
PROFIT/LOSS BALANCE	230000000 YEN

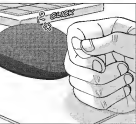
230
MILLION?!



Fair value assessment balance	
Profit/loss balance	180000000 YEN
Additional undisclosed balance	0 YEN

180
MILLION!







WHAT?
THAT
MEANS...



ZAIZEN-KUN
WAS AT 280
MILLION,
AND SHINJI
WAS AT 180
MILLION.



SHINJI
LOST...



...THAT
TAKASHI-
KUN
WON.



I SEE,
THANK
YOU.



I CAN
HARDLY
BELIEVE
IT...



ZAIZEN-KUN
WON BY A
MARGIN OF
50 MILLION
YEN.







LOST
FAITH
IN ME?



HOWEVER...
THANKS TO
THIS MATCH,
I HAVE
ABSOLUTELY
LOST ALL
FAITH IN YOU.



YOU HAVE
SULLED THE
AIR OF OUR
BATTLE-
GROUND WITH
DEPRAVITY AND
FOOLISHNESS.

ZAIZEN
TAKASHI-KUN.
YOUR ACTION
THIS TIME
WASN'T
INVESTMENT,
IT WAS
GAMBLING.



A PERSON
OF INTELLI-
GENCE AND
REASON
WOULD
NEVER
MAKE SUCH
A DECISION.

YOU DIDN'T
CONTROL
YOUR
ANXIETY
AND LAID
EVERYTHING
ON THE LINE.
IT WAS THE
HEIGHT OF
INSANITY.

I WOULD
HAVE
LOST IF
I HADN'T
DONE IT.

EVEN IF
IT WAS A
GAMBLE,
IT WAS
MY ONLY
CHANCE FOR
WINNING.



YOU'RE A
BLOOD-
THIRSTY
BEAST!



IT'S
NOT SOUR
GRAPES. I'M
ADMONISHING
YOU BASED
ON CALM
ANALYSIS.
I'M SAYING
YOU AREN'T
QUALIFIED
TO BE AN
INVESTOR.



CALLING
ME A SUB-
HUMAN
SOUNDS
LIKE SOUR
GRAPES TO ME.

BEAST?



WELL,
IT IS.

INVEST FOR NEW
READ ON LINE I SEE
無料で見られる電子書籍の海



WHAT?

IT'S
PATHETIC.

DON'T
BRING UP
QUALIFICA-
TIONS AND
AESTHETICS
IN OUR
PLACE OF
BATTLE.

IT'S
POINT-
LESS IF
I DON'T
WIN.

WE'RE
COMPETING,
AREN'T WE?
IT'S A LIFE
OR DEATH
BATTLE.

HONOR
CAN GO
HANG.

IF THE POINT IS
VICTORY, I CAN'T
BE CONCERNED
ABOUT
DEGENERACY AND
FOOLISHNESS.
I HAVE TO BE
PRAGMATIC AND
EXPEDIENT.



IF THE
ALTERNATIVE
IS TO BE AN
HONORABLE
MAN OF
CHARACTER
WITH INTELLI-
GENCE AND
REASON WHO
LOSES...

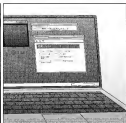
...I'D RATHER
BE A WILD
BEAST THAT
WINS
THROUGH
INSTINCT AND
MADNESS!



I LOOK
FORWARD
TO THE
SECOND
MATCH!



I HAVE A
FEELING
WE'LL BE
LIFELONG
OPPO-
NENTS.



HE
WAS MAD
FROM THE
START.

OH, BOY...
NOW
YOU'VE
MADE HIM
MAD.







HIS
MOUSE
WAS
MOVING
THE
WHOLE
TIME. HE
MUST'VE
MADE
FURTHER
PROFIT.

HE WAS
RAZZING
ZAISEN
ON
PURPOSE
TO
DISTRACT
HIM.



NO.

WHICH
MEANS
SHINJI-
SAN
ALSO.



AW,
MAN..
HE GOT
ME.

OH, MAN..
SOMETIMES HE
LOOKED AWAY
FROM THE
CAMERA, LIKE HE
WAS WATCHING
A DIFFERENT
MONITOR.



I WAS
DISTRACTED
BY THEIR
SQUABBLE
AND TOTALLY
OVERLOOKED
IT.

YEP, SURE
ENOUGH.
EMERGENCY
NEWS
OF POLITICAL
INSTABILITY HAD
JUST COME IN,
THAT'S WHY THE
EXCHANGE
MOVED.



..HE DOESN'T
LET HIS EYE
DRIFT FROM
THIS MARKET,
JUST MAKES
STEADY TRANS-
ACTIONS
THE WHOLE
TIME.

FUJITA
SHINJI
SURE IS
WILY, NO
MATTER
HOW
BAD THE
SITUATION.



...WITHOUT A
STITCH OF
EMOTION.

HE'S
LIKE A
PRECISION
MACHINE...



...HE'S AN
INVESTOR
FOR
REAL...

THAT
GUY...



YOU JUST
BLEW 200
MILLION ALL
AT ONCE.
LOOK A
LITTLE
DISAPPOINTED,
WILL YOU?



BUT
ZALZEN!

OH,
WELL,
IT'S
NOT MY
CON-
CERN.



SO... I'M
GOING
TO TAKE
A LITTLE
NAP.



I'M
TOTALLY
SATISFIED
TO HAVE
WON THE
FIRST MATCH.
I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS
AFTER THAT.

WHAT
DO I
CARE?



EITHER
THAT, OR
A TOTAL
IDIOT...
IT'S ONE
OR THE
OTHER.

IS
THIS GUY
SUPERHUMAN
OR SOME-
THING?